

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to all of the claims now in the application (i.e., Claims 37-47, 49-61, and 63-72) is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to further highlight the novel construction and steps of the invention and to better distinguish it over the prior art. In particular, Applicant has added new independent Claim 70 which corresponds with now cancelled Claim 62, new independent Claim 71 which corresponds with now cancelled Claim 36, and new independent Claim 72 which corresponds with now cancelled Claim 48. Former independent Claim 58 has also been amended so that it is dependent upon new Claim 70. The claims dependent on each of the independent claims have also been amended to be consistent with the amendments made in the independent claims. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification, and drawings, particularly, Figs. 1-3. Additionally, the objections to Claims 48 and 62 are now moot since these claims have been cancelled.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art does not disclose or suggest the structure or steps of the claims, as now amended. The present invention relates to a method of assembling a box or a container and the joint assembly itself, such that a stronger and more secure joint is formed. It is at the heart of the invention, that

upon joining the panels with the panel joint, the fasteners, preferably screw heads, are disposed only on the inside of the box (see, Fig. 1 of the present invention in Exh. A). Placement of the screws only on the inside of the box increases the security of the box and improves aesthetics and safety as the screw heads do not protrude from the outside of the box and are not accessible from the outside of the box. In order to achieve this, the invention operates by means of a fastener, preferably a flattened screw extending through the inner sidewall of the panel joining member and at least part of the way through the panel (see, Exh. A, Fig. 1). As a result, the panel is pushed or urged against the outer wall of the panel joining member (see Fig. 1 and pg. 7, lines 4-6 and 7-9). As mentioned above, it was the main object of the present invention to avoid the screws from protruding from the case and also to provide screws only on the inside of the case. These features are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

The main reference U.S. Patent No. 3,070,646 to Lindgren relies on a complex series of plates, inserts and stop members to produce an electrically shielded container. The reason for the complexity is to ensure that the shielding material forms a more or less continuous sheet around the corners of the box as the box is constructed from individual panels. Lindgren does not disclose or suggest the fasteners being disposed on only the inner sidewall of the panel joining member or urging the panel against the outer wall of the panel joining member, as seen in the comparison of Fig. 1 of the present application with Fig. 3 of Lindgren.

In Fig. 3 of Lindgren cited in the Office Action and enclosed in Exh. A, the shielding material is sandwiched against part of the end of a panel, the panel having been suitably profiled by insertion of a groove. Screws 66 provided on both the inner and outer sidewalls pass through the angled bracket 72 and the panel, and engages opening 64 in an insert 62. This acts to draw the insert 62 and the angle bracket 72 together, squeezing any shielding against the panel.

The manner of action in Lindgren therefore is completely different to that in the present invention which requires that the fastener be inserted into the inner sidewall only of the panel joining member to urge the outer surface of the panel against the outer sidewall of the panel joining member. The screw fixing in Lindgren does not urge the panel against insert 62 but pulls them together. Indeed, the '646 patent would be unsuitable for the purposes of the present invention as the screw 66 penetrates through the insert 62 and it then protrudes beyond said insert. This would lead to the end of the screw sticking out of the packing case. Furthermore, the screws are located on both the inner and outer sides of the joint, whereas the fasteners are located only on the inside sidewall of the present invention, as now claimed.

In regard to U.S. Patent No. 1,813,909 to Brainard et al., it does not disclose or suggest the claims of the present invention, in combination with Lindgren. Similar to Lindgren, Brainard also discloses fasteners disposed on both the inner and outer surfaces of the joint which the present invention seeks to avoid (see, Exh. A, Fig. 6

of Brainard). In the present invention, the fastener is provided only on the inner sidewall of the panel joining member to increase security and aesthetics of the container. Furthermore, the provision of the screw on the inside sidewall also allows for the panel to be urged against the outer sidewall of the panel joining member, which is neither described nor suggested in Brainard.

As a result it is respectfully submitted that the independent claims, as now amended are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art. Furthermore, it is believed that the dependent claims are also patentable over the prior art for the reasons set forth above. The additionally cited references fail to correct the crucial deficiencies noted above.

Additionally, with regard to Claim 37, the feature 68 of Lindgren which the Office Action indicates is a receiver is simply a spacer to hold various of the elements in the correct position whilst a corner is being assembled. This is not a receiver as set out and used in the description of the present invention. Furthermore, regarding the rejection of Claim 42, it is similarly based on the spacer 68 (shown in Fig. 3). This spacer cannot play any part in holding the joint together and as can be seen from Figs. 3 and 4 and is not involved with the same screws references in the Examiner's earlier objections so it is not logically associated with the recess for said screws.

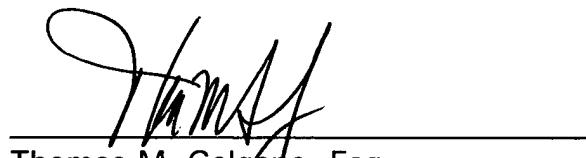
Finally, Applicant hereby requests a three (3) month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action. Credit Card payment form no. PTO-2038 in the amount of \$555.00 is enclosed to cover the official fee . Any fee

deficiency or overpayment may be charged or credited to Deposit Account No.50-3990.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as now defined in Claims 37-47, 49-61, and 63-72 is patentable over the cited art and therefore allowance of the aforesaid claims at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: USPTO Form 2038 in the amount of \$555.00
Postcard

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EXHIBIT A

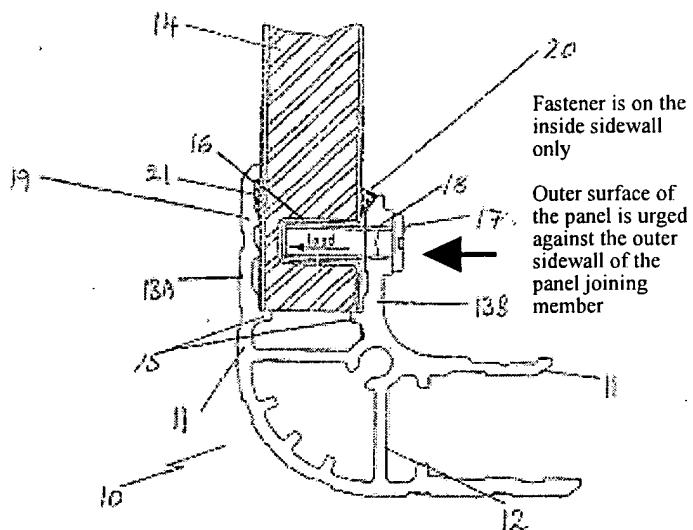


Fig. 1 of the present application (U.S. Patent Serial No. 10/516,436)

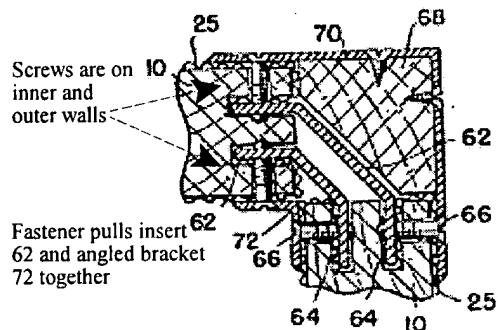


Fig. 3 (U.S. Patent No. 3,070,646 to Lindgren)

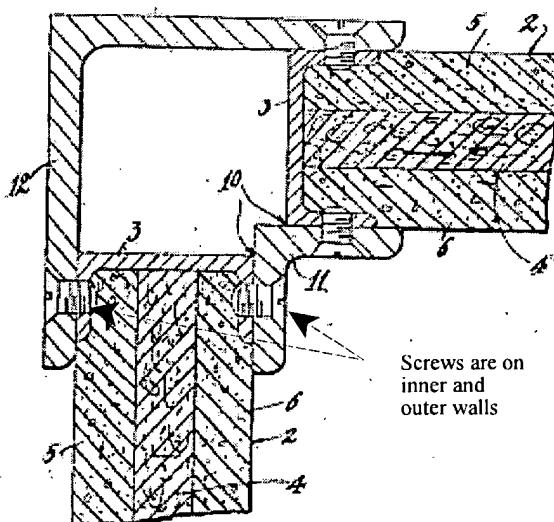


Fig. 6 (U.S. Patent No. 1,813,909 to Brainard)